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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

(Issued in accordance with the decision taken by the Special Committee at its 647th meeting, on 21 March 1991)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

AFGHANISTAN

Message from H.E. Mr. Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

[Original: English]

This is a great pleasure for me to express the full support and profound solidarity of the people and the Government of Afghanistan on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Marking this day, which coincides this year with the thirty-first anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, is of particular importance in the history of the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa.

Afghanistan firmly believes that the struggle of the people of South Africa for the elimination of the inhuman policy of apartheid and racial discrimination has been increasingly becoming stronger and is getting closer to the final victory. This is evidenced by the recent developments in South Africa, which have led to the release of political prisoners, particularly Nelson Mandela, the outstanding national and political figure of the African National Congress (ANC) as well as to the legalization of several political organizations.

It is obvious that the struggle of the anti-apartheid organizations and personalities, as well as the international efforts, above all the United Nations efforts, have greatly contributed to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

My country believes that the eradication of the apartheid system from our planet requires the profound solidarity with and support for the struggle of the people of South Africa, and the international community should exert all efforts in order to abolish the apartheid system completely and to solve the question of political power afterwards. The recent developments must not be construed as a justification for decreasing the existing sanctions against the South African Government. Afghanistan is hoping that the people of South Africa will achieve their legal rights as soon as possible and through peaceful means.

The respect for the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa by the international community proves the fact that the whole world pays a great tribute and honour to this rightful struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

I wish to express once again my full support for the international efforts against apartheid and racial discrimination and for the realization of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the International

Convention against All Forms of Racial Discrimination and for the Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as well.

ARGENTINA

Message from Mr. Guido Di Tella, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

I have the honour to write to set forth our views in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Government and people of Argentina categorically reject any system based on any form of racial discrimination or which permits practices of that kind. Consequently, initiatives aimed at the eradication of the apartheid regime have always enjoyed Argentina's firmest support.

The Government of Argentina wishes on this occasion to stress the important role which the United Nations is playing, particularly through the General Assembly and the Special Committee against Apartheid, in securing recognition of equality among men, irrespective of their origin, race, ideology or creed.

The Argentine Republic wishes once again to add its voice to the voices of those calling for the final elimination of all forms of racial, political or religious discrimination.

BANGLADESH

Message from the Acting President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion, marking the thirty-first anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reaffirm Bangladesh's unequivocal opposition to and rejection of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. We are bound by our Constitution and our adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to uphold faith in fundamental rights, in the intrinsic worth of the human person, in equal rights for all without distinction as to race, gender, creed, colour or language. Bangladesh's own historical evolution and experience has demonstrated its commitment to and steadfast support of these standards and its abiding faith in the inherent dignity of man and of his aspiration to live in a world of peace, order and freedom.

We are conscious today of a new momentum of support sweeping across the world in the pursuit of human justice and the rights of the individual person. Perhaps the most important manifestation of this change is in South Africa itself where the infamous Sharpeville massacre of 1960 focused, as never before, world attention on the evils of racism and racial discrimination in its most heinous institutionalized form - apartheid. The world community has emphatically re-endorsed its message that apartheid must be dismantled once and for all and that negotiations must begin to produce a new set of standards by which South Africa can take its place in the community of nations.

Bangladesh fully supports the demand of the majority people in South Africa that the outcome of any process of negotiations must be a new constitutional order determined by them and based on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is our hope that South Africa can emerge as a model of true democracy, fulfilling the ideal of "one man, one vote" and living by the basic tenet that has been the guiding principle of the United Nations throughout its history - that all men are equal under law and have the right to equal opportunities in education, security and participation in their Government and must have an equal right to live in peace with dignity. Our commitment to this objective is firm and unwavering.

BARBADOS

Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, The Hon. Maurice A. King, Q.C., M.P.

[Original: English]

Today is being observed as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The occasion marks the thirty-first anniversary of the massacre in the black township of Sharpeville in South Africa. On 21 March 1960 the world witnessed with horror the viciousness of the apartheid regime as South African policemen gunned down scores of black people who were peacefully protesting the discriminatory pass laws.

Three decades have passed since the Sharpeville massacre but the basic scene is constantly replayed since racial violence and tension in South Africa have continued unabated. Reports of confrontations between whites and other racial groups are constantly being received.

As we take time out to remember those who were killed that day, let us also spare a thought for our African brothers and sisters who continue to be the victims of oppression perpetrated by the white racist regime in South Africa. Such freedoms and basic human rights that we now take for granted are ideals which they have never had a chance to savour.

Racial discrimination is to be abhorred. Those countries that have a written Constitution have made sure that enshrined therein is the individual's right to enjoy freedom from persecution on racial grounds.

The international community has repeatedly condemned Pretoria's policy of racism and has called for the dismantling of the apartheid system in favour of a representative and democratic one. Today there are indications that this international campaign is beginning to take effect. In southern Africa countless lives were lost in the long struggle before Pretoria relaxed its vicelike grip on Namibia. Namibia's fight for freedom, with the support of the international community, was rewarded when that country proclaimed its independence exactly one year ago.

In February 1990 the international community rejoiced at the release of Nelson Mandela from prison after 27 years. Mandela's release, together with the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC) and other black political groupings, were viewed as mere steps in the long process to the dismantlement of the evil system of apartheid.

Recently President de Klerk announced his intention to carry the process forward and abolish apartheid in South Africa. These announced intentions are to be welcomed but should in no way lull us into believing that the process is complete.

The Government of Barbados remains convinced that the South African proposals do not go far enough. As Barbados has said on numerous occasions, apartheid cannot be modified; it must be totally eradicated. Barbados therefore calls on the international community to retain sanctions on South Africa until a free, just, democratic and multiracial society is created in South Africa. We must be satisfied that the changes are fundamental and irreversible before we consider relaxing the pressure on the Pretoria regime. It is imperative that South Africa prove its sincerity by creating a free, just and democratic multiracial society.

The United Nations adopted the Convention against Apartheid in Sports on 10 December 1985 and formed a Commission to monitor its implementation. Barbados takes pride in its active participation in the work of the Commission. At the domestic level, Barbados has taken legislative action to implement the Convention by enacting the "Prevention of Apartheid in Sports Act" which came into force on 18 June 1990 and again calls on the international community to maintain the boycott until South Africa actions are in keeping with the Convention.

At the same time, let us not choose to ignore those other countries that covertly practice racial discrimination against ethnic minority groups. They too must not be allowed to continue their practices. Racial discrimination has resulted in the concept of second- and third-class citizens and invariably this leads to economic and social discrimination, which is an added burden for many ethnic minority groups.

The citizens of our world must strive to stamp out racial discrimination by controlling xenophobia, by fostering cultural exchanges and by working towards a higher degree of integration. If we actively encouraged a genuine belief in racial equality, we would have a much better chance of eradicating a great deal of the hatred and enmity that exists at present.

The Government of Barbados is adamant that no man, woman or child should suffer discrimination on the basis of the colour of skin. Barbados joins with the international community in calling for an end to the horror that is apartheid and racial discrimination wherever it is practised. It is our hope that judgement, good sense and respect for fellow men will prevail.

BRAZIL

Message from the Government of Brazil

[Original: English]

At the moment when the United Nations celebrates throughout the world, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Brazil reiterates, in the strongest terms, its utter rejection of racial discrimination in all its forms. Most particularly, Brazil emphasizes its condemnation of the system of apartheid, a loathsome concept that represents the denial of the most basic human rights of individuals and a direct contradiction of the values of equality and brotherhood among different races and cultures, values that are intrinsically constitutive of the Brazilian society.

The Brazilian Government is glad to note that this year's celebration of the International Day occurs at a time when there are encouraging signs that efforts towards the elimination of institutionalized racism might soon produce important and tangible results. On this day, when our hearts go to the victims of the heinous practice of racial discrimination, the Brazilian Government expresses its hope that the undelayed and full implementation of the initiatives currently under way will contribute decisively to the complete and irreversible eradication of apartheid in South Africa, thus laying the groundwork for peace, justice and prosperity in that country.

BURKINA FASO

Message from H.E. Captain Blaise Compaoré, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State and Head of Government

[Original: French]

The observance on 21 March of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, coinciding with the beginning of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination, is as always the opportunity for Burkina Faso to renew its solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa.

Twenty-one March, one of the darkest days in the history of South Africa, was the date of the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960, during which dozens of women, children and men, all black, who were demonstrating for justice and freedom, were slaughtered in cold blood by the racist police. The whole world thus discovered with horror the true nature of the minority regime in Pretoria: hideous, repressive, barbaric.

For that reason, 21 March marks an important step in the heroic emancipation struggle of the black people of South Africa.

The important events of the last few years, such as the release of Nelson Mandela, the opening of negotiations between the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pretoria regime, and the recent attempts at dismantling the iniquitous laws underpinning the system of separate development, bear witness to the great victories of the South African people.

However, the road to equality is still a long one, and there will be setbacks and great hardship along the way. As long as the majority population of South Africa is still excluded from the management of the country's affairs, as long as the sacrosanct principle of "one man, one vote" has not been implemented, the struggle for freedom must continue; but victory is certain.

The people of Burkina Faso, mobilized around the Popular Front and the revolutionary Government, will continue, as they have done in the past, to stand firm beside their suffering brothers in South Africa in their struggle for freedom. This struggle is ours in so far as, being aware of our responsibility to history, we in Burkina Faso cannot reasonably savour our own new freedom and dignity while our brothers in other parts of the world are arbitrarily and inhumanely deprived of it.

Therefore, I strongly urge the international community to maintain comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa until the contemptible system of apartheid is totally eradicated.

On behalf of the people of Burkina Faso, its political leadership, the Popular Front, and on my own behalf, I reaffirm our unswerving support for the

Special Committee against Apartheid, whose work has been decisive in bringing about the very positive and encouraging developments recently seen in South Africa.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Message from H.E. General André Kolingba, President of the Central African Republic

[Original: French]

The observance today of the 21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination gives me the welcome opportunity to reaffirm, on behalf of the people and Government of the Central African Republic, our resolute support for the work of the Special Committee against Apartheid in seeking ways and means to eliminate totally every form of racial discrimination.

The reforms now being undertaken by the Government of South Africa, although encouraging, must focus on the very essence of its discriminatory laws if they are to meet the expectations of the international community.

The Central African Republic, true to its principles in the matter, will continue to call upon the international community to strive harder, with a sustained will, to bring about the actual conditions for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination so that a new multiracial and democratic society can take shape in South Africa.

CHILE

Message from the President of the Republic of Chile, H.E. Mr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of another International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to assure you of the full support of the people and Government of Chile, because of the significance of the observance for all nations.

I am pleased to remind you that my Government's policy is to exert its best efforts to ensure full respect and equality among men, without discrimination of any kind.

Kindly accept my best wishes for the success of the noble cause in which you are engaged. I reaffirm our commitment to the defence of the high principles enshrined in international law, which are so effectively applied by the Committee over which you preside.

CHINA

Message from H.E. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

[Original: Chinese]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of the United Nations, I wish to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our solidarity with and support for the Special Committee against Apartheid and our appreciation for the efforts made by the Special Committee under your leadership to support the South African people in eradicating racial discrimination and the apartheid system.

For a long time, the South African authorities, in practising racial discrimination and apartheid, have trampled upon and denied the basic rights of the vast black population, which has met with firm opposition of the South African people and world-wide condemnation. We are happy to note that positive changes have taken place in South Africa since last year. Recently, the President of South Africa proposed to abolish the basic apartheid laws. The move deserves welcome. However, it must be pointed out that his proposal is yet to be translated into practice and his promise to remove obstacles to constitutional negotiations has not been fully honoured. Under such circumstances, the international community should continue its efforts in forcing the South African authorities to honour their promises at the earliest possible date by thoroughly abolishing the apartheid system and speeding up the process of a political settlement of the South African question.

The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly support the South African people in their just struggle against racial discrimination and the apartheid system. We are convinced that the South African people will surely attain their goal of establishing a new South Africa that is unified, democratic and racially equal.

COLOMBIA

Message from Mr. Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

In observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I should like to convey the feelings of support and solidarity of the people and Government of Colombia to the South African masses struggling for a society free from injustice and discrimination.

Colombia has observed with interest the initiatives being taken by the administration of President F. W. de Klerk for the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a multiracial government in South Africa. The

success of these initiatives will depend on the extent to which they can incorporate and satisfy the most cherished aspirations of the African National Congress, the extent to which they are reflected in the new South African Constitution and how fully they guarantee the effective enjoyment of the political, economic and social rights of all sectors of South Africa.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Isidore Malmierca, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

Only years away from the end of the twentieth century, racial discrimination is still a social phenomenon which it has not been possible to eradicate despite the protracted and bloody struggle waged against this inhuman practice of barring human beings from the enjoyment of their fundamental rights because they belong to a certain ethnic group.

While the efforts made by the international community and, particularly those channelled through the United Nations system, have certainly afforded nominal legal protection to groups which are discriminated against, they have not been sufficient to abolish this scourge on mankind. We are still far from attaining this fervently desired goal. Unfortunately, today there are outbreaks of racism everywhere, as if, rather than being on the threshold of a new millenium and living in a world in which human thought has won great triumphs in the scientific field, we had regressed to the ages of obscurantism and ignorance.

In observing 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we should draw encouragement from this anniversary to renew with greater impetus and resolve the fight against the retrograde forces intent on continuing these criminal practices fuelled by an inhuman sentiment and an unbridled appetite for profit which seeks to exploit entire communities, denying them their full human dignity, humiliating them and making a mockery of their civic and labour rights.

On this date and in view of the situation in the Middle East today, attention must be drawn, in particular, to the drama of the Palestinian people, which is discriminated against racially, exploited in its work, barred from its territory, deprived of its property and oppressed by cruel, repressive measures. We must also be more closely united in purpose in order to achieve greater effectiveness through our acts of solidarity with the long-suffering people of South Africa in their daily struggle to annihilate the regime of apartheid for once and for all.

Although these two cases are currently the most critical, they are not the only ones which demand the attention of the international community. There are other situations in many parts of the world in which the victims of

racial discrimination require greater support in a real sense so that their rights will not be trampled upon. Within the borders of developed and powerful countries, there are ethnic minorities who are deprived of their rights and of any protection in the slightest.

The profound economic crisis afflicting the world today, with its dramatic symptoms in the underdeveloped countries - as reflected in the low indices of health, nourishment and education, the rise in infant mortality, impoverishment and the closing off of educational opportunities - is driving thousands of persons to seek a way of life in industrialized societies which, in turn, openly take advantage of the opportunity to exploit a work force compelled to accept low daily wages in order to survive.

In the space of the past year, we have been witness to brutal acts of racial discrimination against those ethnic minorities and the rise of neo-Fascist movements, whose purpose is to serve as a spearhead for sectors embittered by racist sentiments which are politically exploited by unscrupulous leaders.

Can we forget, on this International Day, those indigenous communities which are victims of policies which keep them in the margin of the societies in which they live, denying them their historic rights for the sole reason that they belong to different ethnic groups. In the case of indigenous communities, on all continents, discrimination also translates into high mortality indices, the lack of proper housing, limited access to educational systems and the exploitation of their work force.

Migrant workers as well as indigenous communities and ethnic minorities who live in developed societies, even in cases where they are entitled to citizenship, are subjected to a climate of violence which is truly a manifestation of racial discrimination.

Cuba can openly proclaim that it has eliminated all manifestations of racial discrimination, not only in the legal sense by embodying this principle in its Constitution and laws, but also in the daily conduct of its social, political and economic activities. Equality in all its forms is an immutable principle of the Revolution. Not only do criminal sanctions in Cuban legislation against those who would violate this principle, which is at the very root of the Revolution, act as a barrier to prevent such manifestations, but also the revolutionary people of Cuba have deep-seated feelings against any discrimination on grounds of race. The Cuban people is one united whole.

We are taking this opportunity to request that an appeal be made to all States to accede to the international instruments aimed at eliminating racial discrimination, for the greater the number of countries which accept the commitments contained in those agreements, the further along we will be towards the attainment of the objectives established therein.

It must not be forgotten that fighting against racial discrimination also means standing up to hegemonic policies which violate the principle of

self-determination of peoples, for, implicit in those policies is an attitude of disparagement and scorn towards societies which are ethnically different, as has been readily apparent throughout the historical process of colonialism and imperialism.

It is our wish on this anniversary that the day will soon come when the rights of all peoples will be universally respected. That is the surest path to achieving a world of social justice, free from aggression, a world of peace in which every man, woman and child, regardless of the colour of their skin and their national identity, can enjoy all their rights and privileges and freely contribute to the development of the societies in which they live.

CYPRUS

Message from H.E. Mr. George Vassiliou, President of the Republic of Cyprus

[Original: English]

I welcome this special occasion to address a message in solemn observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Sharpeville massacre and all other victims of apartheid.

The United Nations, since its inception, has been in the forefront of the international community's efforts for the elimination of racial discrimination and the practices of apartheid. Apartheid, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes an unacceptable system and should be completely and unequivocally dismantled. Cyprus reiterates its determination to continue contributing to the eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination.

The commemoration of this day takes place in the positive background of the independence of Namibia and of recent developments in South Africa of the release of Nelson Mandela, and the latest pronouncements and commitments of President de Klerk in particular to repeal apartheid laws.

All these developments are steps in the right direction. It is now that concrete actions have to be taken by South Africa to move towards the establishment of a non-racial society of majority rule where all its people can be assured of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The dismantling of apartheid and the elimination of racial discrimination is integral to the new world era based on the full respect of the Charter of the United Nations.

The people of Cyprus, being themselves victims for the last 17 years of racial persecution and discrimination by Turkey, which in 1974 invaded our country and has since continued to occupy a large part of its territory, reaffirm their solidarity with all those suffering from racial discrimination and injustice and pledge themselves to continue their struggle against oppression in all its forms.

ECUADOR

Message from Mr. Diego Cordovez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]

With this message, the Government of Ecuador joins in the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. There can be no more fitting occasion for my country, as a Member of the United Nations and a party to the international instrument on the subject, firmly to reiterate its unalterable and permanent policy repudiating all forms of discrimination and, even more, to confirm the constitutional mandate condemning and rejecting all forms of racial discrimination or segregation.

EGYPT

Message from H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I am pleased to express Egypt's appreciation of the fine efforts being made by your esteemed Committee to alert the world conscience to the oppressiveness of the iniquity arising from the policies and practices of racial discrimination. This has been and continues to be a positive and contributory role in international efforts to put a final end to the odious system of apartheid, which the international community is rightly united in regarding as a blot on the history of the whole of human civilization.

The Government and people of Egypt have been in the forefront of States and peoples that have declared their commitment to combating of the apartheid practised by South Africa against the black majority for decades, in an unprecedented challenge to all the values of freedom and equality, and have participated in all the measures to oppose that Government and prevail upon it to rid itself of this odious system. The outcome of these measures, combined with the emergence of a new regime, appears to be a not inconsiderable measure of courage and far-sightedness, which together with the continuing heroic steadfastness of the African people in the south, leads us to a certain degree of optimism. New facts have begun to emerge, and we hope that they will be confirmed in the near future, so that all the bases on which this condemnable system is based may collapse.

We look forward to the commencement of constitutional talks between the various political sectors in South Africa, and we await arrival at a just formula that will guarantee the right of all to participate in general elections on the basis of full equality among electors, so that we may thus

close a less than glorious page in contemporary human history and open a new page that harmonizes with the customary respect of the international community for human rights and the affirmation of free principles, equality and justice, principles that know no discrimination as to colour or race in their implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Once again I register our appreciation of the Committee's efforts. We wish its efforts and its lofty mission further success.

GHANA

Message from H.E. Flt. Lt. J. J. Rawlings, Head of State and Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana and on my own behalf, to express our appreciation of the efforts of the international community to eliminate racism and racial discrimination from the world. These twin evils are an affront to human dignity and any effort deployed for their removal is a positive contribution towards the maintenance of international peace and security.

The most heinous manifestation of these evils - apartheid - has been roundly and rightly condemned by the entire international community. Apartheid is as unacceptable as it is inconsistent with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and the values of civilized society. Its total elimination should be relentlessly pursued by the international community.

In this pursuit, the international community must stay the course and not falter before the cracks that are beginning to appear in the structure of apartheid. For these encouraging developments - the unbanning of the liberation movements and other anti-apartheid organizations; the release of political prisoners; measures to facilitate the return of political exiles; and the declaration by the South African Government to repeal the Development of Black Communities Act, the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts and the Population Registration Act - are owed to the intense and sustained pressure from the international community and the patriotic forces of South Africa. The international community must, therefore, continue to press for both the enactment and the implementation of legislation as well as the creation of conditions that would lead to irreversible progress towards the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

It is fitting that as we observe this Day, we should salute with deep respect those who have sacrificed all and dedicated their lives to the cause

of restoring their birthright of human dignity to the people of South Africa. We honour the memory of the heroic sons and daughters of South Africa who, 31 years ago today, were massacred at Sharpeville for standing up gallantly against the racist regime. The dedication of this Day to their memory testifies to the legitimacy of the struggle against apartheid and vindicates the efficacy of pressure in all its forms to dismantle apartheid in South Africa. It is for this reason that Ghana renews its commitment to the maintenance of existing measures designed to secure the elimination of apartheid through peaceful means, as called for by the United Nations Declaration on South Africa adopted by consensus in 1989 at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences.

On this solemn Day, the people and Government of Ghana, mindful of the injustices that racism and racial discrimination have perpetrated in the world, reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in equality amongst all men and women and nations large and small. We rededicate ourselves to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and to the struggle to end racism and racial discrimination in the world.

We salute the Special Committee against Apartheid for its vanguard role; we salute all who have worked tirelessly against apartheid; and, above all, we salute the fallen heroes in the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination.

GUINEA

Message from H.E. General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I should like to convey to you, on behalf of the people and Government of Guinea, our deepest appreciation for the positive role which the United Nations and you yourself have always played in the struggle against all forms of racial discrimination in general and against the shameful policy of apartheid, its most highly developed form, in particular. Our thoughts go out to all who, from the Sharpeville massacres in 1960 to this day, have had to pay with their lives to free the South African people from the chains of humiliation and exploitation. I should also like to assure you that Guinea, as a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, is determined to provide more support than ever for the praiseworthy efforts of the United Nations to bring about the complete elimination of apartheid and the creation of a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

GUYANA

Message from the Government of Guyana

[Original: English]

The Government of Guyana takes this opportunity to renew its solidarity with the struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination.

During the past year, and particularly in recent months, we witnessed developments which seemed to suggest that the world will, sooner rather than later, be rid of the evil system of apartheid. At the same time, however, we remain rather concerned that forward movement has been dogged by so many negative influences that have merely contributed to heightened tension and rampant frustration.

In the circumstances we cannot but be proud of the statesmanship and leadership among the oppressed community, meanwhile urging the minority regime to redouble its efforts to resolve the impasse. Given the necessary political will, no problem should be insurmountable.

We salute, too, the continued efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid and trust that it will not be long before this body can recommend its own dissolution, as did the Council for Namibia, having completed its task.

INDIA

Message from the Government of India

[Original: English]

India's identification with the struggle against apartheid dating from the end of the last century, when Mahatma Gandhi raised the banner of protest against racial discrimination in South Africa, has been a constant feature of Indian foreign policy. India has remained steadfast in its opposition to the inhumane system of apartheid. Significantly, India was the first country to sever trade relations with South Africa in 1946 and was also one of the first to introduce a resolution in the United Nations calling for universal, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

India recognizes that 1990 has been an important year in the struggle against apartheid. It witnessed the retreat of apartheid from Namibia, the release of Nelson Mandela, the symbol of this struggle, and other prominent leaders, the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and other anti-apartheid organizations, and other measures aimed at the creation of a climate for a negotiated political settlement.

India has also noted that further positive steps have been taken by the South African Government since then towards the removal of the legal framework of apartheid. While we welcome these developments, it is also to be noted that several important obstacles remain in the creation of a unitary, non-racial and democratic South Africa. These include continued detention of a large number of political prisoners, the delay in the return of political exiles and continued arrests and detentions without trial. It is hoped that urgent steps would be taken by the South African Government to remove these remaining obstacles which would facilitate the commencement of constitutional negotiations aimed at the creation of a new South Africa based on racial equality and universal franchise.

INDONESIA

Message from H.E. Mr. Soeharto, President of Indonesia

[Original: English]

The Government and people of Indonesia join the international community today in commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and in reaffirming our unswerving commitment to the total dismantling of the abhorrent system of apartheid.

On this solemn occasion of the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, it is an honour to pay tribute to the memory of all patriots who sacrificed their lives and to salute the South African people led by the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) in their relentless struggle for the attainment of their full political, economic and social rights.

The elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations has always been among the highest priorities of the United Nations. In this respect, the Special Committee against Apartheid has worked assiduously over the years in mobilizing world public opinion against the evils of a segregated society. Since the adoption by consensus of the historic Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa on 14 December 1989 by the General Assembly, some positive changes have taken place. The Pretoria Government has released political prisoners, in particular Mr. Nelson Mandela after 27 years of incarceration, lifted the ban on political parties and terminated the state of emergency. We also welcome the policy pronouncements to revoke discriminatory laws such as the Group Areas Act and Lands Act.

But these still fall short of the demands not only of the people of South Africa but also the international community as expressed in the United Nations consensus Declaration. The majority of the population are still denied their basic political rights. Violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights continue. Hundreds of political prisoners still languish in Pretoria's jails and the return of political exiles is severely restricted. The repressive

laws including the Internal Security Act have further deepened the scars of the oppressive system of apartheid. These in turn have unleashed tensions and violent reactions in black townships. Regrettably, the regime has failed to stem the escalation of violence and tragic loss of lives.

It is therefore imperative that the Pretoria regime take further steps effectively to accelerate the process of irreversible change and thereby ensure the exercise of the inalienable right of the majority to a democratic order. In this regard, my Government hopes that the ongoing dialogue between the representatives of the black majority and the South African Government will lead to a free, united and non-racial society.

It is in the context of this overriding objective that Member States should continue economic sanctions on the Pretoria Government. Indonesia has always fully and unequivocally supported all measures, including the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions by the Security Council, towards eradicating the scourge of racial discrimination. It is our firm conviction that what is needed now more than ever is concerted and effective action by the international community to bring about the final demise of apartheid.

As a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, Indonesia remains steadfast in its commitment to bring about liberty and justice to the valiant people of South Africa in their noble struggle for the realization of the fundamental freedoms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are confident that the day will come when racial bigotry and prejudice are eradicated and the South Africans can finally attain their legitimate objectives.

JAMAICA

Message from the Government of Jamaica

[Original: English]

Jamaica joins the international community on yet another occasion in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and in commemoration of the thirty-first anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre as well as the sixth anniversary of the Langa massacre in South Africa. This commemorative event serves as a forceful reminder that the system of apartheid with all its powerful weapons of repression still dominates the lives of the black majority of South Africa. The Government of Jamaica therefore uses this opportunity to restate its unswerving commitment to the struggle against the vicious system of apartheid.

Over the last year, there have been some significant changes in South Africa, including the unbanning of anti-apartheid groups, the proposed repeal

of the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts and the Population Registration Act and the effort to introduce racial integration in the public education system. These developments have given a sense of hope to the oppressed people of South Africa for the first time in more than four decades since the system of apartheid was institutionalized in South Africa.

The progressive direction of President de Klerk's speeches this year have generated extensive international debate as to whether sanctions against South Africa should be lifted at this time. The Government of Jamaica, while welcoming the developments in South Africa, reaffirms its support for continued mandatory sanctions until there is unequivocal evidence of definitive change in South Africa. The Government of Jamaica, therefore, urges the international community to maintain pressure on the South African regime until all the pillars of apartheid have been abolished.

At a recent meeting, the heads of Government of the countries members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) also welcomed the steps taken by President de Klerk, but "agreed that sanctions should be maintained until irreversible steps to end apartheid have been taken, and urged the international community to do likewise".

The Government and people of Jamaica wish to pay further tribute to the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination whose untiring efforts have served to maintain the focus of international attention on the scourge of apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination.

We reaffirm our solidarity with the oppressed majority of South Africa in their valiant struggle against apartheid. It is our hope that this year will be a decisive one, enabling the black majority of South Africa to live in a free society, in which the principles of equality and justice will replace the repressive system of apartheid.

JAPAN

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Taro Nakayama

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I am pleased to extend my cordial greetings and also to pay high tribute to the dedicated efforts which this Committee, under your able leadership, is making towards the abolition of apartheid.

Japan's opposition to apartheid is total and steadfast. I am therefore very pleased to note that, since February of last year, changes within South Africa for the abolition of apartheid have been rapidly gaining momentum and

that the way is being prepared for a peaceful solution through negotiations. I particularly welcome the policy, announced by President de Klerk in a statement he made in early February of repealing the discriminatory laws on which apartheid is based during the current session of parliament.

On this occasion, I strongly appeal to all the parties concerned to renew their efforts to eradicate apartheid once and for all.

Japan, for its part, hopes that fundamental negotiations for the drafting of a new Constitution aiming at the realization of a free, non-racial and democratic system in South Africa will be established through the participation of all the parties concerned as soon as possible. Towards this end, it is Japan's policy to support efforts to resolve the problem of apartheid peacefully through negotiations by the parties concerned.

Finally, I would like to confirm that Japan will continue to participate in United Nations efforts to oppose racial discrimination in all its forms.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Message from the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

[Original: Arabic]

Sir,

This annual observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination affords the international community an opportunity to express its will and renew its support for the peoples still struggling to attain their freedom and the restoration of their dignity. It affords an opportunity to States to express their positions on the efforts made by the United Nations to put an end to the discriminatory racist regime in South Africa, which still constitutes a blot of shame on the forehead of mankind because of its insistence on continuing its racist practices and its deliberate disavowal of the right of the majority of the people of South Africa to enjoy the fundamental rights accorded them by revealed religions and affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments.

The United Nations has made the elimination of all the practices of racist regimes and the social damage and political impact resulting therefrom one of its priorities. Over the past years, the United Nations has achieved tangible progress in this area. Nevertheless, the evils of racist regimes still remain, in parts of the world, a canker on the peoples falling under their domination, who suffer abuse of their dignity, the looting of their lands and property and the practice of the most repugnant forms of torture. In South Africa, the racist minority regime inflicts on the majority of the

inhabitants the most odious forms of discrimination by occupation of land, subjugation of the population and perpetration of massacres, beginning in 1960 with the Sharpeville massacre and continuing up to the present as a result of the intrigue and the sowing of the seeds of discord among the factions of the people with the aim of fragmenting their militant solidarity and thwarting any united effort to put an end to the odious racial policy. In occupied Palestine, the racist Zionist entity is engaged in the same practices against the Palestinian Arab people. It has usurped that people's land, displaced it from its homes and committed savage massacres against its members, beginning with the Deir Yassin massacre in 1948 and proceeding to many other massacres, including the massacre at Sabra and Shatila and the massacre committed by Zionist settlers last year on the threshold of the Al-Aqsa mosque.

The international community, which has, during the latter half of the twentieth century, embarked on a serious and continuing struggle to put an end to the system of racist discrimination and all forms of discrimination, cannot, as it stands at the beginning of the last decade of this century, accept in its midst regimes based on discrimination and usurpation of the rights of others, such as the racist regime in South Africa and the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. The time has now come for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities, to implement its commitments under the United Nations Charter and other international instruments and to force the two racist regimes to implement them in a way that guarantees the restoration of their usurped rights and plundered lands tc those legitimately entitled to them.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has always given strong support to the people of South Africa and the people of Palestine in their struggle against racism and discrimination by assisting this struggle materially and morally, by upholding their positions in international and regional forums and by total commitment to boycotting the two racist regimes and backing every effort to curb their practices. It will always remain a staunch supporter of these two peoples until the hopes of the people of South Africa are realized through the termination of the racist policy and the establishment of a free and democratic State of South Africa free of any discrimination and until the hopes of the people of Palestine for a return to its land, the establishment of its independent State on the territory of Palestine are fulfilled.

The Special Committee against Apartheid has made assiduous attempts to implement the provisions of United Nations agreements and resolutions concerning racial discrimination, and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, as it commemorates the international day against racism, hails the efforts of this Committee and reaffirms its own commitment to backing and supporting these efforts with a view to arrival at the goal to which we all aspire, namely, the total elimination of all forms of discrimination.

LUXEMBOURG

Message from the European Community and its twelve member States

[Original: French]

The Community and its twelve member States attach considerable importance to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. On this International Day, they wish in particular to underscore the right of every person to equality before the law without distinction on grounds of race, colour, ancestry or national or ethnic origin. The States members of the European Community strongly support all efforts to eliminate racial prejudice, racism and racial discrimination.

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the consensus which led the international community to proclaim two Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are testimony to the commitment of the Members of the United Nations to guarantee the principles of the dignity and equality of every human being.

The Twelve nevertheless remain deeply concerned at the fact that racial discrimination persists throughout the world. For this reason, unrelenting efforts must continue in order to bring about the elimination of all practices and measures of racial discrimination.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination commemorates the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. Apartheid is an institutionalized system of State racism which deprives the majority of the people of South Africa of their inalienable civil, political, economic and social rights, by completely denying them freedom of political expression and participation in the exercise of power.

The Twelve always have condemned this system unequivocally. The objective of the States members of the European Community is the complete dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a free and democratic society in which all South Africans will enjoy the same rights. The abolition of apartheid must be brought about by peaceful means through negotiations.

The Twelve have already had the opportunity to express their satisfaction regarding the significant progress made by the Government of South Africa, together with the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC). The Community and its member States welcome the statement by President de Klerk on 1 February 1991 announcing the abrogation of the Group Areas Act, the two Land Acts and the Population Registration Act. They are also pleased that the South African Government has just introduced bills calling for the abrogation of all restrictions based on racial criteria applicable to places of residence and real property.

The Twelve hope that the Government of South Africa will now renounce all repressive measures against the majority of the South African population and that it will honour the commitments it has made as soon as possible. This will pave the way for the complete and irreversible abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The Twelve also are pleased with the results achieved thus far in the discussions between the Government and ANC, and welcome the meeting between Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi. They hope that such efforts will continue, leading to negotiations with the participation of all representative forces in the country to elaborate a new constitution.

The Community and its member States will continue to implement and strengthen their programme of assistance to the victims of apartheid and to promote economic cooperation with the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and its nine member States.

On the occasion of this important commemoration, the Twelve reaffirm their determination to pursue their policy aimed at the complete elimination of apartheid in South Africa and all forms of racial discrimination throughout the world.

MADAGASCAR

Message from Mr. Jean Bemananjara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar

[Original: French]

The international community is once again commemorating a Day which evokes painful memories for human dignity.

At a time when international relations are undergoing profound changes and a new balance is emerging based on law, it is imperative that one of the fundamental obligations of Member States under the United Nations Charter, concerning the equality of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, be fully honoured and implemented.

The new impetus generated by the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should help to attain its objectives and eliminate the wave of racist, injurious, discriminatory, intolerant and xenophobic behaviours and acts perpetrated against vulnerable groups of people in different parts of the world.

Madagascar is prepared to work towards that goal with the international community, in particular the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Commission for Human Rights, in order to make the elimination of racism and racial discrimination a reality for the millions of human beings who are still their victims.

With this in mind, Madagascar welcomes the evolution of the situation in South Africa and will continue to support all constructive initiatives that will accelerate the process of change already begun with a view to the creation of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

MALAYSIA

Message from H.E. Mr. Mahatir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reiterate, on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, our firm support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their continuous struggle to dismantle the unjust system of apartheid and racial discrimination.

As we observe this day, we are conscious of encouraging developments that are taking place in South Africa. President de Klerk's recent announcement of his intention to repeal several apartheid laws is a major decision and, if implemented, will bring us closer to the goal of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa. We welcome these developments but we believe that socio-economic programmes must also be initiated to remove the inequities that have been perpetuated by the apartheid system. We urge President de Klerk speedily to fulfil his other promises of reforms because the majority of the people of South Africa still languish under discrimination. At the same time, it is vital for the majority in South Africa to be united in their interaction with the Pretoria regime. Factional strife only serves to undermine current progress towards attaining a South Africa free of apartheid.

All developments in South Africa are closely followed and assessed by the international community. The response of the international community is dependent on the various steps that will be necessary to phase in an apartheid-free South Africa. Sanctions can be lifted only once the international community is convinced that the process of dismantling apartheid is irreversible. For the moment, international pressure as well as sanctions must be maintained.

Malaysia urges the Pretoria regime to implement fully the provisions of the historic 1989 United Nations Declaration on Apartheid. In this context Malaysia would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations organs and the Special Committee against Apartheid for their contribution towards eradicating apartheid.

MALI

Message from H.E. General Moussa Traore, Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of the Malian People and President of Mali

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination, I wish, on behalf of the people of Mali, its party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, its Government, and on my own behalf, to renew our unwavering support for the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination. The observance of this Day testifies not only to the commitment of the international community to the cause of millions of men and women throughout the world who are suffering from the inhuman and degrading practices of racism and racial discrimination, but also to the determination of the peoples that are seeking peace and justice to fight for the total eradication of the hateful system of apartheid, which has rightly been defined by the United Nations as a crime against humanity. The entire international community must fight this scourge, which is an affront to the dignity of the human person, a grave violation of human rights and a threat to international peace and security. Mali, faithful to its anti-racist policy, remains firmly committed to the oppressed peoples and unreservedly condemns racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations. It fully supports all United Nations activities in line with that position. We rejoice at the release of the great patriot Nelson Mandela in South Africa and at the legalization of anti-apartheid movements. Since the hateful system of apartheid continues to exist in that country, the fight must continue to be waged until apartheid has been totally dismantled and a democratic and non-racial society has emerged there.

MAURITIUS

Message from the Rt. Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Q.C. Prime Minister of Mauritius

[Original: English]

I am pleased and honoured to address to you a special message from the Government and the people of Mauritius on the occasion of the Solemn Meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid, commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

I should like to recall that it was precisely to manifest its profound indignation at the massacre that occurred in 1960 in Sharpeville that the international community through the United Nations General Assembly of 1966 proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Today the situation has moved on rather significantly. The important developments that are taking place in South Africa now are the result of continuous struggle from within, and relentless pressure by the international community. It is crucial that both efforts be maintained until the total eradication of apartheid and the adoption of a new Constitution guaranteeing the establishment of a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

Whilst it is necessary to encourage the South African Government for the positive steps it has thus far taken under the thrust of President de Klerk, it is likewise essential to be cautious in the kind of encouragement that is offered. The promises made by President de Klerk in his 1 February statement need to be kept within the time-frame set. But more importantly, on its agenda the South African Government needs to give prominence to the freeing of all political prisoners and the unconditional return of political exiles.

Actions by the South African Government aimed at the complete eradication of apartheid must be matched by positive reactions from the international community. It is therefore imperative that the present regime act in concert with the people's organizations in South Africa with a view to determining practical steps towards that end.

In this regard the proposal to set up a Patriotic Front Conference should be strongly supported. Such an alliance would strengthen the position of anti-apartheid forces, ahead of the negotiations with the South African Government and foster cooperation among all political organizations, a prerequisite for the future advancement of South Africa.

After years of struggle South Africa must now forge a common destiny in order to reap the rewards of freedom through unity.

MEXICO

Message from the Government of Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government of Mexico once again reiterates its firm support for the defence of human rights, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as its rejection of any form of discrimination or exclusion based on racial or ethnic prejudice.

Consequently, the Government of Mexico renews its support for the efforts of the international community to put an end to all discriminatory practices and racial segregation. In this regard, it declares its solidarity with the valiant struggle of the South African people against the apartheid system, and urges the South African authorities to adopt immediately the constitutional reforms necessary to put an end to this shameful system.

In a world that amazes us daily with profound political changes, the persistence of racist practices runs contrary not only to the principles of justice and international law but also to those of the dignity and equality of all human beings. In this context, one of the most degrading expressions of racism and racial discrimination is, without doubt, the South African regime's apartheid policy. The elimination of that policy is one of the greatest challenges faced by the international community. It is therefore necessary to continue efforts at all levels for the full implementation of the measures contained in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and of the many resolutions on this subject adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Government of Mexico recognizes that significant advances have been made towards a positive process of change in South Africa. However, the principal steps listed in the Declaration on Apartheid as indispensable for the creation of a favourable climate for serious negotiations have yet to be taken.

Today, given the apparent emergence of the most propitious conditions in all of South African history for advancement towards the elimination of apartheid, the Government of Mexico will continue to monitor the nascent process of transformation in South Africa.

PAKISTAN

Message from H.E. Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Original: English]

Today, the international community is observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On this occasion, the Government and people of Pakistan pay homage to the martyrs of the Sharpeville massacre, who, 31 years ago, laid down their lives in the cause of liberty, justice and equality. Their heroic sacrifice was an epoch-making turning point in the struggle of the people of South Africa for dignity and freedom.

The evil system of apartheid, imposed by the Pretoria regime in South Africa, is repugnant to the tenets of Islam and constitutes a gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Pakistan has, therefore, been consistently in the forefront of the international struggle against this abominable system of racial discrimination. The dismantling of the system of apartheid can be hastened through strict enforcement of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the minority racist regime of South Africa. In keeping with this belief and in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, Pakistan has proscribed all contacts with South Africa.

Recently, some encouraging developments have taken place in South Africa. They include the release of the leader of the African National

Congress (ANC), Mr. Nelson Mandela, the lifting of the ban on political organizations and the initiation of dialogue between the Pretoria regime and the ANC. These are steps in the right direction but fall short of the goal of eradication of apartheid. We believe that the sanctions imposed against the racist Pretoria regime should continue to be applied until the complete elimination of racial discrimination and establishment of majority rule in South Africa.

On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our solemn and unflinching commitment to the goal of complete abolition of apartheid and establishment of majority rule in South Africa. We are confident that the valiant struggle of the people of South Africa for the rule of justice and liberty will be crowned with glorious success.

PANAMA

Message from the Government of the Republic of Panama

[Original: Spanish]

The Government of Panama wishes to join the international community in commemorating 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Panamanian people, which for so many years suffered the scourge of political discrimination, torture and ill-treatment, disregard of fundamental freedoms and shameful violations of human rights, wishes to express, at this solemn meeting, its solidarity with peoples which are victims of racism.

The Panamanian people reiterates its pledge before the international community to continue in the struggle against racial discrimination, based on the fundamental principles of truth, justice and equality among men, while always setting its sights on achieving the peace so strongly desired by the peoples of the world.

PERU

Message from Mr. Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government of Peru renews its firm support for all efforts to eradicate racial discrimination in any form.

In its solidarity with the just cause of peoples seeking equality and respect for their ethnic and cultural identity, the Government of Peru reaffirms its commitment to the fundamental principles governing the life of nations, as well as to the fullest respect for human rights.

In view of the political events in the international sphere, where democratization processes have taken on universal characteristics, the Government of Peru considers that any remnant of racial discrimination is an affront to humanity which must be totally and definitively eradicated.

The people and Government of Peru reiterate their ethical and political commitment to efforts to eradicate all forms of racism and racial discrimination, as well as to the objective of speedily achieving the dawn of a more equitable international system governed by the rule of justice and equality.

PHILIPPINES

Message from Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

[Original: English]

On this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government and people of the Philippines rededicate themselves to the ideal of the total elimination of all forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. As a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Philippines holds it as an inviolable principle that racism and racial discrimination must be opposed vigorously wherever and whenever they occur. Hence, the Philippines totally rejects the apartheid system which systematically denies the human rights of the black population of South Africa. Apartheid is a direct and a shameful challenge to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which the United Nations is deeply committed.

The international community's determined struggle to end the apartheid system is beginning to show results. We witness historic changes in South Africa taking place. One by one, pillars of apartheid are crumbling before our very eyes. Our vision of seeing South Africa transformed into a united, democratic non-racial society has now a chance of becoming a reality. But the apartheid system is far from dead. Hence, this is the time to strengthen our common resolve to ensure that the ongoing negotiations in South Africa will result in the final demise of apartheid.

The sufferings of the black South Africans must now end. We have the power to see our dream of vanquishing apartheid fulfilled. We the peoples of the world must lift our voice finally to realize that vision of equality and brotherhood enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

POLAND

Message from Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination I wish to confirm the unchanged and consequent position of Poland that all forms of racial discrimination are contradictory to respect of human dignity protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Poland deeply believes that cultural progress and civilizational development will lead to the final eradication of all still existing practices and reflections of discrimination based on racial criteria. In this spirit we express the satisfaction from the announcement of the Government of South Africa concerning the liquidation of apartheid in the nearest future.

I wish to assure you that Poland will continue to participate actively in the realization of the noble ideals contained in the conventions and international covenants and in particular in the Charter of the United Nations, concerning the respect for and promotion of human rights.

In our foreign policy we consequently follow the principles of respect of international law and morality in relations with other countries. Therefore we attach such great importance to the elimination of still existing practices of violation of human rights, including racial discrimination.

SENEGAL

Message from H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal

[Original: French]

On this solemn day which marks the thirty-first anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, the Senegalese Government and people join the rest of the international community in honouring the memory of those who paid with their lives for their participation in the just struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination in all its forms. This commemoration also offers Senegal the opportunity to express, once again, its unshakable faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

This observance takes on particular importance because it occurs at a time when the favourable international climate and the positive developments recently observed in South Africa offer hope that irreversible steps are being taken towards the rapid elimination of apartheid, for the purpose of

instituting a democratic, non-racial and egalitarian society based on the exercise of power by the majority through full application of universal suffrage, for the benefit of all the citizens of a united South Africa.

In this regard, Senegal notes with satisfaction the declared intention of the South African Government to repeal, by 1 July 1991, all of the laws which constitute the foundations of apartheid. In particular, along with the rest of the international community, it awaits with great interest the implementation of the proposal made to the South African Parliament on 1 February 1991 for the elimination of some of the legislative pillars of apartheid, such as the "Population Registration Act", which establishes a system of segregationist racial classification based on separate development; the two "Land Acts", establishing the bantustans; and the "Group Areas Act", which regulates residential areas along the same lines. Senegal welcomes the decision taken by the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) to establish a joint committee to discuss common action to bring about the rapid eradication of apartheid.

Undoubtedly, such positive developments constitute an unprecedented gain with respect to the inhuman situation prevailing in South Africa. It cannot but be noted, however, that apartheid remains, since the black majority have not yet secured the right to vote freely and to express their wishes for the future of their country and for their own future.

This is why it is more essential than ever for the international community to maintain pressure on the Pretoria Government to induce it to respect its commitments, so as to promote the emergence of a genuine democratic process in South Africa, in accordance with the political Declaration adopted by consensus at the sixteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As long as the determination and resolve of the United Nations to eliminate the scourge of apartheid from the face of the earth have not culminated in the total dismantling of this hateful system in all its forms and manifestations, the international campaign against apartheid will have to be not only maintained, but intensified.

On this twenty-sixth anniversary of the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, I should like to make a renewed appeal to the international community for greater mobilization to promote the rapid achievement of the objectives of this Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as well as apartheid. Only through such mobilization can human rights and human dignity become a reality everywhere, including South Africa. All countries that seek peace and justice have a duty to work towards that end.

For its part, Senegal will continue, as in the past, to exert all necessary efforts for the triumph of human dignity, in the fullest sense of the term.

Lastly, I should like to pay tribute, in particular, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; to the Special Committee against Apartheid; and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for their constant contribution to the efforts of the international community to achieve a victory for the noble ideals of peace, collective security, justice and progress.

SIERRA LEONE

Message from H.E. Major-General Dr. Joseph S. Momoh, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

[Original: English]

Today, as a wind of change continues to sweep across the world the hopes and aspirations of people everywhere are heightened for a better life, free from the stigma of prejudice and intolerance.

With these hopes and aspirations, come the undeniable expectation that nations can no longer ignore or dismiss their responsibility to provide an environment in which their citizens, regardless of race, can live in safety, assured of their full protection under the law, with speedy and just remedies for any heinous violations.

An enlightened society is such only to the extent that its willingness to be at peace with the rest of the world is matched by its determination to guarantee to its members, without exception, those principles basic to our claim to a common humanity. In this task, there can be no qualifications, no limiting factors to inhibit the full expression of a homogenous society.

With the end of the twentieth century upon us, we have still unrequited the unique challenge of our time: to make our world a global village in which everyone will be judged, not by colour or race, but by the highest standards of character and moral justice.

Therefore, let us, with this commemoration, ensure our continuing faith in, and commitment to, each other in our journey to a new age of enlightenment.

SOUTH AFRICA

Message from Mr. R. F. Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa

[Original: English]

South Africa welcomes the opportunity afforded by the observance of the Day of Solidarity for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to associate itself with that objective. The Government of South Africa has recognized that the elimination of racial discrimination goes hand in hand with the constitutional process presently under way in the country and has repeatedly expressed its intention to remove discriminatory laws and practices.

Thus a White Paper in connection with the repeal of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, the Group Areas Act of 1966 and the Black Communities Development Act of 1984 was tabled in the South African Parliament on 12 March 1991 and the relative legislation itself was tabled simultaneously. Legislation to repeal the Population Registration Act of 1950 will also be introduced during the current session of Parliament. Many discriminatory laws and practices have already been abolished and, following Parliament's approval of these latest Government proposals, the South African statute book will within months be devoid of the remnants of racially discriminatory legislation. The State President during his address to Parliament on 1 February 1991 presented a "Manifesto for the New South Africa", formulating a set of common democratic values and ideals for the people of South Africa. One paragraph states:

> "All discrimination between groups of people or between individuals shall be eliminated and discriminatory legislation shall be repealed."

Another states that:

> "All people shall be equal before the law and shall enjoy equal rights regardless of race, colour, sex or creed."

The Manifesto is reproduced below.

The cause of human dignity is a responsibility shared by the domestic leaders of all nations and the international community as a whole. Today offers us an opportunity to renew our comitment to the principle of the equality and dignity of all human beings.

MANIFESTO FOR THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA

We, as South Africans from all walks of life, ASSOCIATING ourselves with the goodwill and the shared desire for justice, peace and freedom among the majority of our fellow South Africans,

DECLARE

THAT a just and fair New South Africa, free from apartheid, requires a strong South African nation,

THAT there exists, therefore, an urgent need for the leaders of all our people and communities to come together to shape a mutually acceptable new Constitution for our country,

THAT such a Constitution should be based on the rule of law and lay the foundation for a nation dedicated to justice, democracy and freedom for all, through the pursuit of participation, peace, progress and prosperity,

THAT Christian values and universally accepted civilized norms and standards should be maintained in South Africa together with recognition and protection of freedom of faith and worship,

THAT all the people of our country should take part in this endeavour,

THAT WE, to this end, SUBSCRIBE to the following:

PARTICIPATION: A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM

WE COMMIT OURSELVES to the creation of a free and democratic political system in South Africa, in which:

* All people shall be free in this, their country of birth;

* All the people of our land shall participate fully at all levels of government on the basis of universal adult franchise;

* The government of the country shall at all times be based upon the consent of the governed;

* All people shall be equal before the law, and shall enjoy equal rights regardless of race, colour, sex or creed;

* The rights of all individuals and minorities defined on a non-racial basis shall be adequately protected in the Constitution and in a constitutionally guaranteed and justiciable Bill of Rights;

* Freedom of expression, within the generally recognized bounds of responsibility, shall be the right of the people;

* Freedom of movement and of association shall be guaranteed to all.

PROGRESS: AN EQUITABLE SOCIAL SYSTEM

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO the creation of an equitable social system in South Africa in which:

* The human dignity of each individual, being a unique creature of God, shall be respected at all times;

* Freedom of religion and of worship shall be guaranteed for all;

* All discrimination between groups of people or between individuals shall be eliminated and discriminatory legislation shall be repealed;

* The goal of just and equitable educational systems, accessible to all, shall be striven for unswervingly;

* Access for all to affordable shelter shall be a high priority.

PROSPERITY: A FREE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC SYSTEM

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO the creation of a free and equitable economic system in South Africa in which:

* All people shall be free to sell their labour and market their products;

* The ownership of property shall be open to all;

* Economic growth with the emphasis on the creation of employment shall be vigorously promoted;

* The resources of the State shall be fairly used for the common good, with special regard to the socio-economic backlogs existing in our country;

* The State and all the members of our society shall accept our responsibility as custodians of our environment and resources.

PEACE: FREEDOM AND SECURITY FOR ALL

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO the maintenance of South Africa as a sovereign independent State, secure against foreign interference, in which:

* The protection of, and respect for life, liberty and property shall be a first principle;

* The peaceful settlement of political and other disputes between groups and individuals shall form the foundation of a democratic society;

* Violence and intimidation shall not be tolerated as tools to attain political ends;

* The State shall be charged with the duty to ensure the maintenance of stability in a peaceful and orderly society;

* The application of the powers of State shall be limited to the minimum necessary for the maintenance of a peaceful and orderly society, and shall be governed by the law.

WE, who associate ourselves with this Manifesto, RECOGNIZE that we are still divided by many differences concerning the manner in which these ideals may best be realized, but WE ALSO RECOGNIZE that we are UNITED in our love for our country and all its people, and therefore

WE DECLARE that we are DETERMINED to apply all our talents and our labours to overcome these differences and to find a peaceful way to build a great South African nation and a better future for the generations to come.

THE FOUNDATION OF APARTHEID - THE POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT - IS TO BE REPEALED BUT "TEMPORARY TRANSITIONAL MEASURES" WILL BE INTRODUCED. THIS DOCUMENT EXPLAINS WHY

In opening address to Parliament in Cape Town today, the State President, Mr. F. W. de Klerk, announced the repeal of the last remaining discriminatory laws which brings South Africa to the end of an era.

The repeal of the "main pillars" of apartheid, the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act, was predicted last year, but the Population Registration Act, had always been considered to be the last unassailable "foundation stone" of apartheid under the present Constitution.

But even this Act will now be repealed within the "next few months" doing away with the very last "apartheid law" on the statute books.

In his address Mr. De Klerk said the Government held the view that the Population Registration Act would have to be repealed eventually, but that this could not be done immediately because the Act was technically necessary for the maintenance of the present constitutional dispensation. Therefore, it would be possible to repeal the Act only once a new Constitution had been implemented.

This argument was based on the following legal principles as spelt out by the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser.

The Constitution is aimed at allowing whites, Coloured and Indians - within a group concept - participation in the political process. Article 37 of the Constitution determines that Parliament consists of a House of Assembly, a House of Delegates and a House of Representatives.

In terms of these stipulations in the Constitution whites are represented by whites and elected by whites as members of the House of Assembly. The same goes for Coloureds and Indians.

Part 4 of the Constitution provides for "own" and "general" affairs. Own affairs is described as a matter concerning a population group with regard to the maintenance of identity, way of life, culture, traditions and practices.

Own affairs are administered by an own Ministerial Council. The Constitution refers to the population groups as whites, Coloureds and Indians. The definition of whites, Coloureds and Indians is determined in accordance with the Population Registration Act. An unavoidable result of the repeal of the Population Registration Act is that the Constitution will not be able to function.

But, "following investigation, it would, in fact, appear possible to repeal this Act, provided that this is accompanied by the adoption of temporary transitional measures towards the acceptance of a new Constitution". Consequently, legislation repealing the Act will be tabled during the present session of Parliament.

From the date of the repeal South Africans will no longer be subject to classification by race.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Message from H.E. Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]

As the world focuses its attention on the scourge of racial discrimination, the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis wish to register their support for the efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid and join with the rest of the peace-loving nations around the world in observance of the International Day for its elimination.

The Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis are painfully aware of the corrosive effect of racial discrimination on human relations world wide and its obstruction of the global pursuit of peace.

The Government and people deplore the systemic and systematic discrimination of peoples predicated upon racial considerations and denounce any regime, such as apartheid, which applies this means in furtherance of its political ambitions. We are relentless in our call for the dismantling of apartheid.

We fully subscribe to the basic truth that all men are born equal and endorse efforts to sensitize all of humanity to this truth.

We sincerely hope for that glorious day when there is universal acceptance that an individual's worth is determined by his or her innate abilities and not by skin pigmentation or racial origin.

Let us all be relentless in the struggle for racial equality and harmony in the world.

SUDAN

Message from H.E. General Omer Hassan Ahmed AlBashir, President of the Revolutionary National Salvation Council of the Sudan

[Original: English]

In joining you and the international community in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on my behalf and on behalf of the people and Government of the Sudan, we would like to express our appreciation for the relentless efforts made by the international community in general and the Special Committee against Apartheid in particular, aimed at the complete eradication of the system of apartheid in South Africa.

However it is with regret that we note that despite the concerted efforts made by the international community in combating racism and racial discrimination, yet a considerable portion of mankind is still subjected to the most horrible forms of racism, occupation, oppression and systematic denial of its most basic human rights and political freedom, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations and various international instruments on Human Rights. In this regard, the practices of the racist and Zionist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine respectively, represent the most odious examples of racism and racial discrimination of our times.

Although the ongoing political process in South Africa shows some signs of positiveness, yet the people and Government of the Sudan hereby reaffirm their unshaken position which calls, inter alia, the international community to maintain measures aimed at applying pressure on the racist and Zionist regimes with the purpose of isolating them until they bow to the will of the international community.

In commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the people and Government of the Sudan, once again, applaud the continuous efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination and reaffirm their commitment to lend unfailing support to those efforts with a view to attaining the final goal, namely the complete elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

SURINAME

Message from H.E. Mr. Johannes S. P. Kraag, President of Suriname

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government and people of Suriname reiterate their full support for the just struggle for political freedom and equality of the majority of the people of South Africa.

The early abolition of all forms of legislation, forming the pillars of the apartheid system, together with the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the curbing of violence, will surely set the stage for the establishment of a democratic, non-discriminatory South Africa.

The Government of Suriname takes this opportunity to underline the continued constructive contribution of the Special Committee against Apartheid in order to keep the South African Government on the path of reform which should accumulate - hopefully soon - in the complete abolition of apartheid.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Message from H.E. Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

I am pleased, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, to address your esteemed Committee, which is convening its special meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which also coincides with the thirty-first anniversary of the massacre that was one of the most repugnant of the racist actions perpetrated by the racist regime against the people of South Africa.

Your meeting reaffirms the international community's condemnation of racist practices, which constitute a violation of all values and human rights and fundamental freedoms. In fact, the racist regime in Pretoria resembles in its practices no other regime in the world except the existing regime in Israel, which has long confronted the Arab people in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan and southern Lebanon with steel and fire. The oppression and repression carried out by Israel against the Arab people is but a part of the methodological racist practices against the Arab population of the occupied territories. The international community has repeatedly on many occasions condemned the cooperation existing between these two regimes in all fields, which stems from belief in a racist creed and a similar settlement goal. This endangers peace and security in the Middle East region and southern Africa and, consequently, endangers international peace and security.

The Syrian Arab Republic was the first State to sign the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, inasmuch as apartheid is a crime against mankind and constitutes a grave challenge to the international will, the United Nations Charter and human rights. On this occasion, I must affirm that the elimination of policies of apartheid and other racist philosophies is an issue fundamental to the success of the aspirations of the international community to establish a world in which the principles of equality, dignity and justice prevail.

The Syrian Arab Republic takes this opportunity to salute the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa and to reaffirm its resolute commitment to support it and all national liberation movements in order that they may enjoy the right to self-determination and achieve full national independence.

THAILAND

Message from H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, Prime Minister of Thailand

[Original: English]

At the solemn meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reiterate once again, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand, our full support for the abolition of apartheid.

We welcome the announcement by President F. W. De Klerk in early February on the repeal of all the remaining laws upholding the apartheid system. We ardently hope that this recent constructive move and the faster release of political prisoners and the safe return of exiles will further accelerate the process of complete and irreversible eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democratic South Africa.

We also hope, with strong determination and a spirit of cooperation and reconciliation among all South African people, that the formal all-party conference on South Africa's political future can take place in the near future so that their aspiration for permanent peace, stability and equality will finally be realized in this country.

TOGO

Message from H.E. General Gnassingbé Eyadema, President and Founder of the Togolese Assembly and President of the Republic

[Original: French]

Every 21 March, the international community observes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966.

The date of 21 March was chosen in commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre of 21 March 1960. On that date, demonstrations took place in several towns in South Africa to protest the requirement imposed on all black Africans that they always carry passes. Many black Africans had assembled peacefully in front of the police stations in order to be arrested for having left their passes at home. In Sharpeville, the police, armed with machine-guns and rifles, opened fire on the crowd, provoking an incident which caused 69 deaths and left more than 200 wounded.

This incident, which was strongly condemned by the entire international community, is an expression of the apartheid policy in South Africa, where the segregation of people of colour - separated from whites in all circumstances, including work, housing and access to public and cultural services - was established as a system of government, and where the authorities do not hesitate to resort to the most extreme forms of oppression and violence in order to perpetuate the domination of privileged groups over other communities held to be inferior.

Today's commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre offers all peace-, justice- and freedom-loving countries of the world the opportunity not only to denounce the inhumane system of the South African regime, but also to reaffirm their commitment to the struggle against racial discrimination throughout the world, inasmuch as it constitutes a threat to international peace and justice.

In order to safeguard the dignity and fundamental freedoms of the black community in South Africa, it is important that the international community increase its pressure on the Pretoria regime to abolish quickly the villainous laws of apartheid and work in cooperation with the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and other South African liberation movements towards a democratic and non-racial society.

TUNISIA

Message from the Government of Tunisia

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Tunisian Government and people reaffirm their solidarity with the black populations of South Africa.

The commemoration of the distressing events of Sharpeville on 21 March 1960 gives us the opportunity to assure the people of South Africa of our unfailing support for their struggle for freedom and dignity.

The positive developments in southern Africa which have occurred as a result of the independence of Namibia and the release of the leader Nelson Mandela are but the result of a bitter struggle and immense sacrifices made by the men and women at Sharpeville and elsewhere.

While welcoming these developments, Tunisia expresses its total support to the leaders of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and to its South African brothers in their efforts to abolish the apartheid system and to establish a just and balanced society which meets the criteria of democracy, moral values and international charters.

Tunisia will spare no effort to join with all peace- and freedom-loving countries which are working, within the framework of the United Nations, to bring about the complete elimination of all forms of discrimination in this region of the world, as well as in the occupied Arab territories, where Israel continues to deny the Palestinian people its basic rights, including that of establishing its own State, and is perpetuating a policy of abject repression and discrimination.

Tunisia renews its appeal to all States Members of the United Nations to spare no effort to restore the legitimate rights of the peoples of Palestine and South Africa in conformity with the principles of human rights and with United Nations resolutions.

TURKEY

Message from Mr. Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

[Original: English]

On the solemn occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reiterate the resolute support of the Turkish people and the Government of the Turkish Republic for the elimination of all kinds of racial discrimination.

The ruthless massacre of unarmed civilian Africans in Sharpeville on 21 March 1960 is a tragic event to be remembered. This day has become a symbol for the international community to express concern over racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

All Members of the United Nations have committed themselves under the Charter of the United Nations to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, which is a sine qua non for establishing a peaceful international order. The positive developments in the international scene have been conducive to the eradication of the last vestiges of all kinds of racial discrimination. We must not miss this historical opportunity to establish a new international order based on peace, justice, freedom and equality.

I would like to convey through Your Excellency to the Special Committee against Apartheid our deep appreciation for its determined international action to eradicate racial discrimination.

I wish to reiterate that the people and the Government of Turkey are willing and ready to support unreservedly all international efforts aimed at the elimination of all kinds of racial discrimination.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Message from Mr. A. Zlenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR

[Original: Russian]

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is being observed this year at a time when an invigorating wind of far-reaching change in the world is chasing away many of the dark clouds which have been looming on the international horizon. The international community is facing the future with great hope and looks forward to the harmonious, peaceful and mutually beneficial development of all countries and peoples. This is indeed possible when everyone enjoys equality before the law, without discrimination on the basis of race, nationality or religion or on any other grounds whatsoever.

The eradication of racism is a task for all of humanity inasmuch as racial discrimination is at variance with the standards of modern civilization, and with human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Ukrainian SSR categorically condemns all manifestations of racism and apartheid and supports efforts to end them once and for all. This was once again demonstrated in early March of this year when the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the Ukraine's periodic report on the implementation by it of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

As a result of the unflagging efforts by the United Nations to combat the policies and practices of apartheid and the active stand it has taken on this matter, in particular through the Special Committee against Apartheid, important changes have occurred in the Republic of South Africa and these changes have given rise to genuine hopes that apartheid and the massive racially motivated violations of human rights that have been associated with it in South Africa might soon come to an end and that a democratic society might be established there.

I should like to stress my conviction that the participants in the solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid will give proof of the determination of the United Nations and of all peace-loving forces to do everything possible to speed up this process. As it has in the past, the Ukraine will participate actively in international efforts to eliminate apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination.

URUGUAY

Message from H.E. Mr. Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera, President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]

On behalf of the people and Government of Uruguay, I have the honour to address you on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On this day, we must reaffirm our conviction that the promotion of the inalienable rights of the individual and the view of human beings as the basic and key element of a democratic regime, find concrete expression, for our country, in the full observance of the principle of equality which is embodied in the Constitution of Uruguay: all persons are equal before the law, there being no distinction between them other than that which is based on their talents and abilities.

The continuous efforts of the United Nations to abolish all forms of discrimination, especially discrimination based on race, have been and will be firmly supported by Uruguay's representatives in all international forums.

I take this opportunity to announce that the Government of Uruguay is now in the process of submitting the reports required under the United Nations system of protection against racial discrimination.

I should also like to recall the statement made by the head of the Uruguayan delegation at the last session of the General Assembly, referring to the interrelationship between peace and respect for fundamental human rights and the rights of peoples, as follows:

> "As long as somewhere in the world there is no full respect for the dignity of men and women, flesh and blood, body and soul - the main protagonists of the world and its history - as long as apartheid

persists, as long as racism persists in its true and accurate sense, without misleadingly stretching its meaning either historically or politically, as long as persecution and discrimination exist, as long as political rights are not recognized and enforced and as long as free and periodic elections are not held, it will be impossible to promote the development of man, and economic, social and cultural development will be inconsistent."

VANUATU

Message from H.E. Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu

[Original: English]

In the long march of mankind's evolution and social development, we have overcome many obstacles. Some of these obstacles have been the obstructions of nature. Others, unfortunately, have been man-made obstructions in our path of development. Amongst the most formidable of the latter has been the evil sickness of racial discrimination in its various guises. Few human frailties have been as illogical or as costly as racial discrimination. Fortunately, the most obvious forms of racial discrimination are today totally discredited and universally condemned.

On this, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government and people of Vanuatu renew our solemn pledge to work with others in the international community for the total eradication of apartheid and every other form of racial discrimination and bigotry. Our goal is to assure that every man, every woman, and every child shall enjoy the God-given right to walk the face of this Earth in dignity and equality. Towards this end, we will continue to support the work of the Special Committee against Apartheid and commend the quality of your outstanding leadership.

VENEZUELA

Message from H.E. Mr. Carlos Andrés Perez, President of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

On this date, 21 March, as we observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination proclaimed by the United Nations, Venezuela confirms its steadfast repudiation of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

We repudiate and condemn as a crime against humanity the segregationist regime of South Africa. Despite the international community's awareness of

the abhorrent practices of apartheid and commitment to its eradication, some countries have maintained relations with South Africa, thus nullifying the United Nations resolutions.

While changes have been initiated in South Africa which could bring the end of racial segregation within sight, they cannot, under any circumstances, be regarded as sufficient reason for easing the pressures on the Pretoria Government and suspending the sanctions imposed on that regime within the framework of the United Nations. On the contrary, the Government of Venezuela calls on other Governments to ensure strict monitoring of compliance with the norms and sanctions adopted by the United Nations.

It is appropriate to recall the statement made by Nelson Mandela, on the occasion of the seventy-ninth anniversary of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) in January 1991, concerning the South African Government's responsibility for implementing the Groote Schuur and the Pretoria agreements. The two agreements are of major significance, in terms both of their value as an initial approach to a solution of the problem and of the negotiations for a new constitution.

The apartheid system must be totally abolished, once and for all, in order to ensure respect for the human rights denied to the South African people. We condemn the crimes of apartheid as being equal to the crimes of nazism and fascism and deserving of the same international judgement.

I hereby reaffirm the appeal which I made to Member States during the debate at the previous session of the General Assembly in October 1990, urging them not to suspend sanctions against South Africa until such time as agreements had been reached which could turn the promises of the current South African Government into reality.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Nelson Mandela, the leader and hero of the African people, will visit Venezuela in July 1991 in response to my invitation.

VIET NAM

Message from H.E. Mr. Do Muoi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March, I would like to extend warmest greetings to you, the South African people and the African National Congress (ANC).

Over the past years, the staunch struggle of the South African people under the leadership of ANC, with the strong support of the peoples of Africa and the world over, has recorded important successes and compelled the South

African authorities to initiate some political reforms and release Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders.

We are rejoiced at those achievements of the South African people and are convinced that the United Nations and the international community will, in commemoration of the day, undertake practical measures to support the struggle of the South African people and effectively to implement the 1991 programme of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The people and Government of Viet Nam reaffirm their resolute support for the just cause of the South African people and ANC aimed at eliminating apartheid and building a South Africa of peace, independence, democracy and social progress.

May the just cause of the South African people and ANC, enjoying the strong support of progressive people, soon achieve the final victory.

YUGOSLAVIA

Message from the Government of Yugoslavia

[Original: English]

The observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is yet another opportunity for us to welcome the consistent action of the United Nations, particularly of the Special Committee against Apartheid, aimed at bringing about final elimination of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

Today, at a time of spectacular changes in the system of international relations and their ever greater democratization, the stubborn persistence of the inhuman system of apartheid which engenders racism and racial discrimination, is an unacceptable anachronism. Although important positive changes towards the dismantling of apartheid have taken place recently, this system has not been eliminated yet. It breeds violence and racial upheavals that continue to plague southern Africa. The denial of the fundamental human rights and civil liberties of the majority population in South Africa is an insurmountable obstacle to the normal development of both political and socio-economic relations not only in that country but also in adjacent countries and in Africa as a whole. The international community therefore should resolutely call once again on the South African Government to continue, without delay, the process of elimination of apartheid and to establish to that effect a dialogue with all major factors in the country.

Together with other non-aligned countries and with an active role of the United Nations, Yugoslavia will continue its efforts aimed at accelerating this process so that the people of South Africa could finally realize their inalienable right to live in a society based on equality and free from racial segregation and discrimination. We continue to hold the view that it is

necessary to maintain the existing sanctions and pressure on South Africa until there is firm evidence of irreversible and substantial changes to bring about final elimination of the inhuman system of apartheid.

We are confident that, as in the past, a special contribution to these efforts will be made by the Special Committee against Apartheid which is, we hope, ever closer to the fulfilment of its task. Along with the Special Committee, Yugoslavia will act according to its profound conviction that this goal should be achieved as soon as possible.

II. MESSAGE FROM A NON-MEMBER STATE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Message from Mr. Sang-Ock Lee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Korea, wish to renew our support for the efforts of the international community to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, in the firm belief that apartheid constitutes a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind, reaffirms its support for the efforts of the South African people to establish, through peaceful means, a united, non-racial and democratic society in South Africa in which all its people, irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed, will enjoy the same fundamental freedoms and human rights.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea welcomes recent developments in South Africa which will foster a climate fully conducive to a peaceful settlement of the problems through negotiations. We believe that these developments are positive steps in the processs towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, as an expression of our support for and solidarity with the peoples in southern Africa, has provided financial assistance through United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa since 1978 and is fulfilling its pledge of $US 1 million made in 1987, to the action for resisting invasion, colonialism and Apartheid Fund.

Finally, I take this opportunity to pay high tribute to the Special Committee against Apartheid and other relevant organs of the United Nations for their noble and untiring efforts to achieve the lofty goal of eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid.

III. MESSAGE FROM AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the thirty-first anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, which is commemorated as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the apartheid regime and calls for the speedy end of racial discrimination in South Africa to prevent further violence.

AAPSO fully supports the position taken by the anti-apartheid and the democratic movements in South Africa pertaining to the vision of a new democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

We call upon the people of the world to exert more pressure on South Africa to end the apartheid system.